

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 719

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the panoramic history of
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, more than four centuries ago, Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto looked out over the Mississippi River and explored the lush forests and grasslands that would become Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and good growing conditions brought many Native American tribes, such as the Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, Chickasaw, and Choctaw, to the unsettled and unmapped land; and

WHEREAS, as colonies and towns were being established along the Eastern seaboard, hearty pioneers blazed trails into what would become Tennessee, settling the Watauga area, founding the town of Jonesborough, and eventually establishing the State of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1796, President George Washington signed the bill that made the area south of the Ohio River the 16th state of the Union; and

WHEREAS, the name of the last state to join the United States of America in her formative century was Tennessee, derived from the Cherokee name Tanasi, meaning River of Great Bend; and

WHEREAS, in the nation's first one hundred years, Tennessee led the way in the areas of leadership, bravery, and perseverance; this great State served as a home to three U.S. Presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, all who led this country in times crucial to the preservation of our union; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans demonstrated their patriotism and fortitude when the State sent more than its quota of volunteers to assist our nation's defense effort in both the War of

1812 and the Mexican War, thus earning our state the proud sobriquet “The Volunteer State”;
and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played a significant role in the battles of our great nation;
many tales of bravery and heroism have been written in Tennessee, as the State was home to
more Civil War battles than any other state except Virginia; and

WHEREAS, upon the cessation of the war, Tennessee resumed her tremendous growth
as commerce, industry, and agriculture rapidly developed; and

WHEREAS, more recently, over the past one hundred years, Tennessee has led the
nation in numerous social, technological, and cultural advances; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been a progressive leader in various social issues,
including the Civil Rights Movement, and was the deciding state in the ratification of the
Women’s Suffrage Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the 1940s
earned Tennessee recognition as a pioneer in the field of nuclear energy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth and development
of American popular music: Memphis is the birthplace and the cradle of the blues and is also
notable as a quality purveyor of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll; Nashville is Music
City U.S.A. and the home of country music and the Grand Ole Opry; and the hills of East
Tennessee have been a seminal influence in Appalachian folk music, including the traditional
form of bluegrass; and

WHEREAS, the sons and daughters of Tennessee who have won national and
international acclaim, regardless of whether they were born here or came to call the Volunteer
State home, include such luminaries as Eddy Arnold, Chet Atkins, Kenny Chesney, Davy
Crockett, Anne Dallas Dudley, Lester Flatt, Morgan Freeman, Nikki Giovanni, Red Grooms, Alex
Haley, Isaac Hayes, Benjamin L. Hooks, Sam Houston, Cordell Hull, Peyton Manning, Dolly
Parton, Minnie Pearl, Grantland Rice, Wilma Rudolph, Sequoyah, John Sevier, Dinah Shore,
Pat Summitt, Justin Timberlake, Tina Turner, Darrell Waltrip, Ida B. Wells, Oprah Winfrey,
Reese Witherspoon, and Alvin C. York; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has become a global tourism destination, while preserving its rich history, arts and cultural heritage, and magnificent scenic beauty such as Cades Cove in Smoky Mountain National Park; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is home to Dollywood, Bristol Motor Speedway, Elvis Presley's Graceland, The National Civil Rights Museum, Shiloh National Battlefield, the Tennessee Aquarium, Ruby Falls, the Tennessee Civil War Trail, and many other tourist attractions from one end of the state to the other; and

WHEREAS, visitors flock to fill the stands of our sporting arenas and athletic competitions across the state, as Tennessee is home to the Memphis Grizzlies, the Nashville Predators, the Tennessee Titans, and a brand new Major League Soccer team, as well as countless minor league baseball teams, world class golf courses, and national champion collegiate athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, employing more than 176,000 people statewide with a total payroll of \$4.3 billion, tourism is one of the State's largest industries, with \$19.3 billion in travel expenditures in 2016 in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, tourism in Tennessee in 2016 netted more than \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes, with all ninety-five counties seeing more than \$1 million from the economic impact of tourism, including nineteen counties who saw more than \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data puts Tennessee in the top ten in states for travel with 110 million visitor stays, according to D.K. Shifflet, as the Volunteer State continues a record pace and more visitors come to experience the wonderful history, the scenic beauty, and the national treasure that is the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of the General Assembly should honor the proud heritage and many accomplishments of our great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the wonderful panoramic history of Tennessee and join with all Tennesseans in reflecting upon our shared history, our many traditions, and our tremendous accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.